

Retirement credits for vocational teachers' work experience  
(HB 788, by C. Evans)

DIGEST:

HB 738 would have allowed vocational teachers with at least ten years of service in public schools to buy retirement-system credit for prior work experience. Work experience creditable for retirement benefits would have been the same as work experience used for salary step increases. Vocational teachers could have bought up to five years credit by paying a fee established in the bill.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

"This measure discriminates against thousands of teachers who earned their professional standing through years of college and university training. These years of schooling are not counted for either salary step credit or Teacher Retirement System purposes. This measure establishes bad precedent which could be abused in the future."

SPONSOR'S

VIEW:

Rep. Evans said he had "no idea" why the bill was vetoed, especially since all of the state teachers' groups supported it and the plan was found to be actuarially sound. The college preparation for academic teaching is more general and not as deserving of retirement credit as the work background of vocational teachers, Evans said. He added that he would reintroduce the bill.

Split sentencing and shock probation  
(HB 888, by Rudd)

DIGEST:

The bill would have created a new sentencing option known as split sentencing. It would also have extended shock-probation eligibility to include those convicted of murder, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, aggravated sexual abuse, deadly assault on a peace officer, injury to a child, aggravated robbery, bribery, escape, and organized criminal activity.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

Shock probation should not be expanded to include those convicted of these crimes. Society should deal harshly with these criminals and judges should not be given the option of ordering shock probation in these cases.

SPONSOR'S

VIEW:

Rep. Rudd said that he didn't think Gov. White "fully understood the bill." Shock probation serves as a "middle ground between absolute probation and absolute incarceration." The bill would have expanded shock-probation eligibility for those who are already eligible for regular probation, so it would have given the judge three sentencing alternatives instead of two.

NOTES:

The analysis of HB 888 appeared in the May 11 Daily Floor Report.

Write-in votes for school trustees  
(HB 943, by Connelly)

DIGEST:

HB 943 would have applied the rules for write-in candidacies in the general election of state and county officers to the election of trustees of independent school districts. Specifically, these rules require the write-in candidate to file a declaration of candidacy by certain dates and to comply with the Election Code's campaign-finance reporting and disclosure requirements.

GOVERNOR'S

REASONS

FOR VETO:

The bill is too limited. It leaves out "a great percentage of the so-called local elections--those for common school districts, city elections, rural high school districts, hospital districts and many others."

SPONSOR'S

VIEW:

Rep. Connelly said he respects the Governor's opinion but regrets that he was not contacted by the Governor earlier to make changes in the bill. Connelly also said that the Governor's veto message does not reflect a concern the Governor's staff has raised about the problems the write-in rules might cause for smaller cities and districts.

NOTES:

The HSG analysis of HB 943 appeared in the April 5 Daily Floor Report.